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Title: Junko Mizuta Interview
Narrator: Junko Mizuta
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 7>

- AT: Um, so by now. And then how long were you in Minidoka?
- JM: 00:38:09 Oh, after I finish my senior year I lived in, that was 1943. I lived in August or September. I kind of decided I wanted to go to school. I didn't have any money. My parents had, had a college fund for me, but they couldn't pay the premiums, you know, since they were in camp. So that lapsed. So, um, I, I just decided to go out. And my Mom, she was in a state of shock I think. So she just said, you know, go ahead. Oh, I was only 18 and didn't know anybody but, uh, outside, but um, she said you want to go, go. And then in camp my sister almost died. So, uh, she, um, she was still recuperating and so she stayed behind with my Mom
- AT: 00:39:25 And and she, so she didn't end up going to school?
- JM: 00:39:30 No, well, she was that age I think when you just graduated high school and everything was in turmoil, you know, and you weren't applying to school, you were packing up your baggage, you know, so she never went.
- AT: 00:39:52 And so where did you ended up going with your?
- JM: 00:39:56 Oh, I went to Milwaukee is a domestic, and this woman had another Japanese girl before me and she had a family that lived there in Milwaukee. So weekends on her day off she'd go back home and I had nobody. I didn't know anybody. I never did domestic work and she and I, we didn't get along.
- AT: 00:40:30 Did not get along?
- JM: 00:40:30 No, uh, I got along great with the grandmother. But the young mother who was working for, she didn't like me in, I probably didn't like her. So one day she said, we're no longer want your

service. And she asked this other girl that I took the place of to come back until she found somebody, but then I was homesick and you know, I kinda wish I hadn't left home and uh, and so anyway, I did know this one, couple young couple from back home, this was the son and the parents were good friends of my parents, so I called them and I asked him if I could stay with them for a few days until I find something new. And of course, WRA was great, I think was the WRA and anyway, they found me another job in uh, you know, three or four days. So then I went to this family and it was a young couple. She was 26 and he was 30 and we got along great. She had two kids and I was supposed to take care of the kids and then help her in the kitchen. So that worked out well and I was happy there. And so I was there. And then in the meantime, my Dad got released from the DOJ camps, so my sister was stronger. So she came out and she had a domestic job, so you know we communicate with each other. So it wasn't bad. And once a week on my day off I'd go to business school so then I wouldn't have to be domestic job for the rest of my life in. So things were going pretty good.

AT: 00:42:49 Which school were you taking classes at?

JM: 00:42:53 I don't know, I can't remember

AT: 00:42:54 Was it?

JM: 00:42:54 In Milwaukee.

AT: 00:42:55 And your family friends, who you had contacted?

JM: 00:43:03 Yeah

AT: 00:43:04 About staying with them, were they Japanese American?

JM: 00:43:06 Yeah. They were Nisei's

AT: 00:43:10 Living in Milwaukee?

JM: 00:43:12 Hmmh

AT: 00:43:12 So had they left camp? To find a job?

JM: 00:43:15 I think so, yeah. He was an engineer. Yeah, because I don't think before the war engineers, you know, found work on the West Coast.

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